

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4, 7-16, 21-26 and 32 are pending in the above-identified application. Support for the changes to claim 12 is found in original claim 4 and in paragraph [0078] in the specification. Claims 14 and 15 have been amended so as to address the issue under 35 USC 112 noted below.

Issues under 35 USC 112

Claims 14 and 15 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 14 and 15 have been amended to further clarify the base material features and the changes therein are supported in paragraphs [0100]-[0101] at page 33 of the specification. It is submitted that claims 14 and 15 comply with the written description requirement such that the above rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 14 has been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite due to insufficient antecedent basis as noted at page 2 of the Office Action. Claim 14 has been amended so as to remove the basis for the above rejection, such that this rejection should be withdrawn. It is submitted that claim 14, along with the other pending claims, comply with applicable definiteness requirements.

Issues under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 12, 13, 16 and 32 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugimori '006 (US 6,670,006) in view of Kumagai '108 (US 2003/0088108).

Claims 12-16 and 32 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Friedrich '946 (US 5,340,946) in view of Sugimori '006 and Kumagai '108.

The above rejections are traversed based on the following reasons.

Distinctions over Cited References

Sugimori '006 discloses an epoxy resin composition for fiber reinforced plastics which includes (A) a bisphenol A-type epoxy resin, (B) an epoxy resin having oxazolidone rings, and (C) a curing agent which may be an imidazole compound as noted at column 5, lines 21-30. Friedrich '946 discloses an adhesive composition which includes (a) a polymeric resin having a Mn of at least

10,000; and (b) a curing agent. Kumagai '108 discloses imidazole/carboxylic acid derivatives used to improve adhesion between a metal or inorganic material and a resin.

Sugimori '006, Friedrich '946 and Kumagai '108 all fail to disclose the employment of a thermoplastic resin in combination with an imidazole silane compound as recited in independent claims 12 and 15, for example. Although Sugimori '006 discloses some examples of thermoplastic resins at column 5, lines 35-55, these resins do not encompass the resins recited in claim 12. Both Sugimori '006 and Friedrich '946 fail to disclose or suggest the use of an imidazole silane compound as recited in the presently elected claims 12-16 and 32. There fails to be any suggestion or basis for a motivation to one skilled in the art to employ an imidazole silane compound as used in the present invention based on the disclosures of Sugimori '066 and Friedrich '946. It is also clear that all of Sugimori '006, Friedrich '946 and Kumagai '108 fail to recognize the advantageously improved adhesive properties exhibited when imidazole silane compounds are used, especially with respect to titanium or titanium alloys, as described in paragraphs [0058]-[0064] of the specification. In addition, note that the comparative test results summarize in Table 2 and discussed at pages 43-58 of the present specification provide further evidence of the improved adhesive properties exhibited by the present invention. In this regard, note that Examples 9, 13 and 15 (containing a thermoplastic resin) exhibited advantageously improved adhesive properties over Comparative Examples 1-4 as noted in paragraph [0186]. Consequently, the above rejections must be withdrawn.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Andrew D. Meikle, Registration No. 32868 at the telephone number of the undersigned below to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448..

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Respectfully submitted,

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